

The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

October 1996

October Meeting

Pacificon '96

Friday, October 11

8:00 PM

Our Savior's Lutheran
Church

1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Dick Brown and the rest of the Pacificon '96 crew will give a presentation on Pacificon '96.

This is your chance to experience a unique, behind-the-scenes look at Pacificon '96 from the people who will make it happen.

Nominations for 1997 officers are due at this meeting.

Please note that the October meeting is one week earlier than usual.

Presidential QRM

By Larry Gansz, KB2GV

Where will you be on October 18, 19, and 20? At Pacificon '96, of course! See you there! Remember, the October meeting is on Friday the 11th, a week early, and the board meeting is on Monday the 14th.

Nominations for 1997 officers are due at the regular meeting. If you have ideas, recommendations, or would like to volunteer, contact Mary Jane Walker, N6NVA, or bring them to the meeting. The board is also looking for recommendations for the annual awards: Kilroy Key, Ham of the Year, a new Lifetime Achievement Award, and others. Contact any board member.

Speaking of awards, they'll be presented at the Holiday Social on Friday, December 20. This year's holiday event is an evening reception with hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages. We'll hold many, many prize drawings throughout the evening. The committee is looking for donations, contributions, and suggestions for prizes in addition to our traditional ham prizes. Now for the good news—the board recommends the club fund the entire event! What more can you ask for?

Dennis, KC6QHH, and his crew, including Art, AB6HB, Jay, KT6Y, Dick, KT6X, Mary Jane, N6NVA, Dick, AA6DL, Greg, KE6VTA, Stan, N6ZA, Matt, KF6BUM, Joey, KF6ACO, Brian, KB6SFS, Christopher, and everyone donating, selling, and buying "stuff" completed a very successful fall auction. I know, it looked like there wasn't much "stuff", and not many people; however, this auction netted the most to the club of any fall auction over the last several years. Thanks to everyone!

Don't forget, nominations are due at the October meeting, a week early this month. See you at Pacificon '96. 73's, Larry.

...At Your Service

By Charles Arthur, AC6WU

Last month I talked about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and how you could become a member. Let's take that a step further and discuss at what levels one may participate.

At the local level, hams may participate in local emergency organizations, or organize local "nets" using VHF and UHF frequencies. At the state level, hams are often involved with state emergency management operations. Additionally, hams operate at the national level through the Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Service (RACES) which is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and through ARES, which is coordinated through the American Radio Relay League. In addition, in areas prone to tornadoes, many hams are involved in Skywarn, which operates under the National Weather Service.

Amateur Radio is recognized by many national organizations and has formal agreements with ARES and other Amateur Radio Groups. These national organizations include: Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Communications System, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Weather Service, Associated Public Safety Communications Officers.

More than 25,000 amateurs nationwide have voluntarily registered their services and formed an organized pool of operators to provide reliable primary or secondary communications links for government agencies and/or nonprofit organizations when needed. These amateurs pride themselves in their professionalism. They are "amateurs" only by virtue of their volunteering their time, skill and equipment. If you would like to become a part of this proud organization, contact ARRL Headquarters or

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to nj6a@ccnet.com (preferred), or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Pacificon 96 is coming!

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

On October 18, 19 and 20 the Concord Hilton will be bursting with Hams. Good tickets are still available. Banquet tickets will be sold out so act now. The Friday Antenna seminar runs from 0800 to 1700. Here is just a sample of what is in store for you at Pacificon 96.

Friday, October 18

Antenna Basics, Doc Gmelin W6ZRJ and Al Gaetano W6VZT
Antenna Basics, Roy Lewallen W7EL
History of HP Mobile Antennas, Don Johnson W6AAQ
Matching Transmission Lines, Ed Farmer AA6ZM
Patch Antenna Design and Construction, Rob Hill
Understanding Antenna Fundamentals, Tom Schiller N6BT
VHF Contesting from the Ground UP, Mike Polkinghorn KD6PUD

Saturday, October 19

Airborne Video, Ed Mitchell KB6BFR
AMSAT Phase 3D, Bill Tynan W3XO
APRS, Barry Winkler KC6WYA
APRS and Satellite Demonstrations
ARRL — What's happening in Washington?, Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, and Chris Imlay, N3AKD
ATV Demonstration
EMC for the Ham shack (1400, Marconi) Steve Jensen KC7ELK
Ham Health Check, Beth Murphy KD6CDR and Julie Porten KN6UV
Computer aided antenna design, Roy Lewallen W7EL
High Speed Packet, Bruce Perens AB6YM
How QRP Rigs Work, Paul Harden NA5N
Is There a Story Inside of You?, Cynthia Wall KA7ITT
Internet Demonstrations
NorCal QRP Club Open House, Doug Hendricks KI6DS
Packet Questions & Answers, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU
Packet Satellite, Carol Byers W9HGI
QRP, Dave Meacham W6EMD
QRP Technical Advisor for NorCal QRP Club.
QRP and the Internet, Chuck Adams K5FO
QRP SSB Operation Using Homebuilt Gear, Ed Burke KI7KW and Derry Spittle VE7QK
Small Monopole Antenna for 20 meters, Rob Hill
Why Morse Code?, Jim Maxwell W6CF
Working QRP Contests and DX, Chuck Adams K5FO and Eric Swartz WA6HHQ
Working the Amateur Satellites, Omri Serlin AA6TA and Don Ferguson KD6IRE
YL Forum, Beth Murphy KD6CDR and Julie Porten KN6UV

Sunday, Oct 20

APRS and Satellite Demonstrations
ARRL Forum, Brad Wyatt K6WR
ATV Demonstration
Hang Gliding, Russ Douglass KA6PLM
Internet Demonstrations.
Intro to TCP/IP, Bruce Perens AB6YM
Linux and Amateur Radio, Bruce Perens AB6YM
Panel on Frequency Coordination

continued on page 5

Amateur Radio Power Supplies

By Richard M. Shappee, WA5HQJ

Introduction

The Editor has solicited technical articles for the *Carrier*. In the belief that there might be some interest in such articles, I plan to submit a number of contributions, starting at an elementary level. If there is sufficient interest, the content of future submissions can be varied to cover other items. While the first few articles will relate to power supplies, subsequent articles could discuss amplifiers, antennas, and other areas of general interest to our members. Let me know if you have a particular item that you think might be of general interest.

Power Supplies

Amateur radio equipment uses a variety of power supplies. The power supplies take alternating voltage from the power company and convert it into direct voltage. (An alternating voltage is one that changes polarity in a regular fashion. Direct voltage is of only one polarity.) The manner in which this con-

version takes place and how it is further regulated, will be the subject of this article and following articles.

Figure 1 is a typical schematic that takes the commercial voltage and not only converts it to a direct voltage, but also changes the voltage to the level necessary for the equipment that will use the voltage. Note that the voltage could be either increased or decreased in the process, depending upon what is required.

Starting at the left side of the drawing, a connector is shown that would normally be plugged into a wall outlet. The connector is identified as AC1. The drawing for the connector, as well as other components in the drawing, through not as neatly drawn as theirs, agree with the symbols used by the ARRL. Next is shown a fuse, identified as F1 and a switch, S1. The fuse serves to protect against a component failure in the power supply and the switch allows it to be turned on and off.

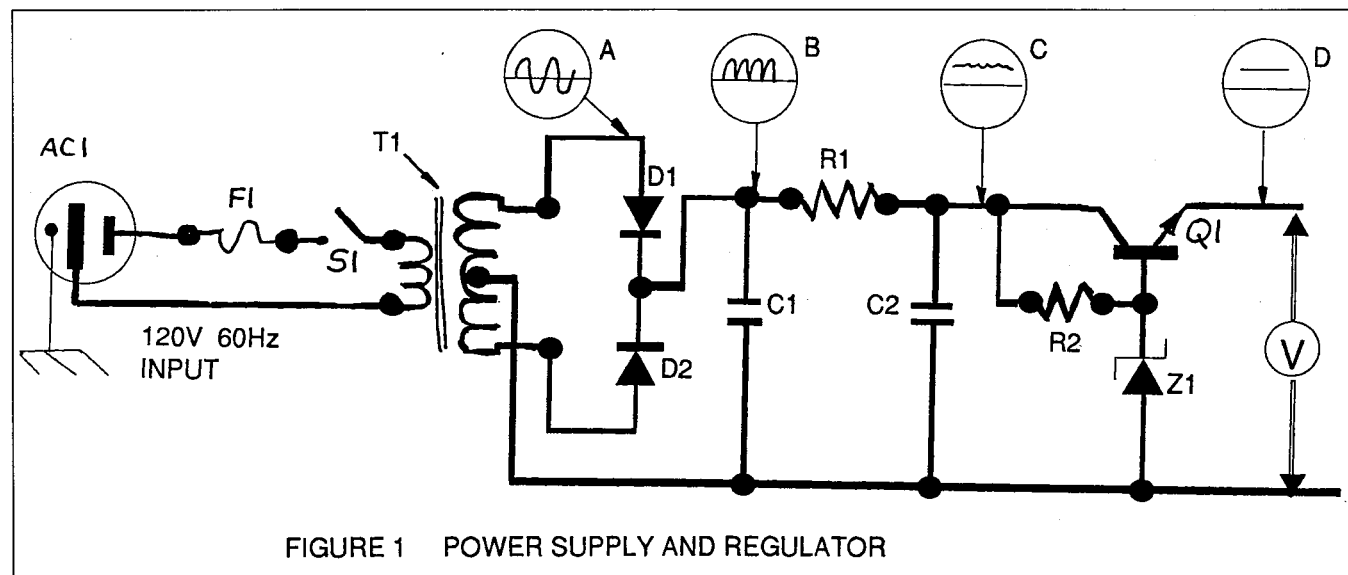


FIGURE 1 POWER SUPPLY AND REGULATOR

version takes place and how it is further regulated, will be the subject of this article and following articles.

Figure 1 is a typical schematic that takes the commercial voltage and not only converts it to a direct voltage, but also changes the voltage to the level necessary for the equipment that will use the voltage. Note that the voltage could be either increased or decreased in the process, depending upon what is required.

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Immediately following the switch is a transformer, T1. The transformer serves to change the voltage at the input, as supplied through AC1, to that which is desired at its output, the

“smoothed” by the components in the circuit.

The diodes D1 and D2 will only allow the positive excursions of the voltage to pass through. Note that the voltage ahead of the diodes had an excursion below the line drawn at the center of the circle and the voltage following the diodes only goes above the line. The voltage has been “rectified” and is only positive in polarity.

Following the diodes is a capacitor C1, a resistor R1 and another capacitor, C2. These components serve to smooth the voltage so that it does not have as great an excursion downward as would otherwise be the case. What happens is that the capacitors store a charge of voltage which they release at the right time so as to tend to fill in the gap or space between the positive excursions, causing the voltage to be smoothed or “filtered”, the term usually used.

The voltage at “C” could be further smoothed through the use of another resistor and capacitor combination. But there is a better way that will be discussed next time as will the components marked R2, Q1, and Z1.

Rocky Ridge Repeater Group Meeting

September 18, 1996

Chair Jim Tittle, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Donation: The secretary reported that we had received a generous \$100 donation from Ernest Baumeister, W6VQ, for

ATV use.

Treasurer: Greg, KE6VTA, reported we have \$15,673.68 in the bank.

Antenna reconstruction: Jim, KC6SOE and Keith, N6PMF, reported that work on the commercial antennas is not finished but hopefully work on the amateur antennas will begin by the end of September. We will be sharing antennas with other amateur groups and it

appears that our antennas will be located higher on the new tower than on the old one.

Mt. Oso link: This matter is still on hold.

ATV rebuild project: Keith has all of the parts for the project.

Repeaters: Howard, KE6PTT, reported the repeaters will be off the air for a while on Sept 21st for some upgrades. He also stated that the problem with the phone

patches a couple of weeks ago was due to an accidental cutting of the phone lines.

Commodore 128 computers:

Jim reported that Barry, AC6HV, has no use for the computers at his school. It was M/S/C to sell them at the up-coming MDARC auction, with no minimum bid.

Power supply:

Keith explained that the 50 amp. power supply for the ATV cabinet was not adequate. It was M/S/C to purchase an Astron RS-70M for \$310.

Rocky Ridge Site:

Jim reported that the site owner has increased the fees for the Rocky Ridge site. Our share will increase from \$10 to \$20 per month. It was M/S/C to pay the increased rent of \$20 per month commencing January 1, 1997.

12 Store Buying Power!



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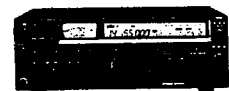
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Steering committee: The next meeting of the steering committee will be at Bakers Square, October 9, 1996 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Dick, AA6DL

...At Your Service

continued from page 1

myself, MDARC's Emergency Coordinator.

On another subject, the other day, I heard two amateurs speaking to one another in the German language. A third unidentified station seemed to be annoyed by this and told the two individuals to speak English, this is America! What do you think, was he right?

As far as the FCC is concerned, it's perfectly legal to speak to another station in a foreign language but when it comes time to identify, use of English is required (See F.C.C. Rules Part 97.119 b,2). Oh yes, the third station was only partly right in his advice. Some control operators of repeaters require that English be spoken for monitoring purposes. Too bad he didn't explain that. Unidentified transmissions however are illegal (See F.C.C. Rules Part 97.119 a).

Wishing you all good transmissions, 73's, Charles, AC6WU.

Nominations Wanted - Annual Awards

It's that time of year again. As we look at club accomplishments, we traditionally honor a few individuals each year for their dedication and tireless commitment supporting the amateur creed. The Kilroy Key, Ham of the Year, Public Service, and other awards are given to recognize individuals or groups serving the club and community.

OK, I know a lot of people deserve recognition. You know who they are! Please give your recommendations and comments to any board member. The November board meeting is the final approval for this year's awards. Please don't miss this opportunity! Thank you.

Pacificon 96 is coming!

continued from page 2

QRP, Advice for the beginner, Doug Hendricks KI6DS
VHF Contesting from the Ground UP, Mike Polkinghorn
KD6PUD

Why Morse Code?, Jim Maxwell W6CF



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Why Not A New Location For Pacificon?

By Richard Shappe, WA5HQJ

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club has held three successful Pacific Division Conventions at the Hilton Hotel in Concord. The 1996 convention will also be held there. A number of people have questioned why we don't change to a different location so that we can accommodate more attendees and provide additional space for exhibitors. The same issue is periodically reviewed by the Pacificon Committee. A summary of the choices we have and the trade offs to be made seems in order.

In planning a convention, the first choice to be made concerns the geographical area where we want the convention. Convention cities that could be considered include Sacramento and San Jose, both abounding in suitable facilities. Would our membership be likely to support a convention 60 miles from home, in the shadow of other clubs who likely would want to put on a convention with its notoriety and profit? The likelihood is that our members would not think this a wise choice. The Pacificon Committee does not think it is a good plan.

Then what about hotels in Walnut Creek? San Ramon? Other close locations? The truth is that no other local hotel has the advantages of the Hilton. This includes two nearby shopping malls, facilities for the swap meet, readily available transportation, restaurants and parking at the hotel and in nearby parking lots, all without parking charge. No other nearby hotel has significantly larger meeting rooms.

Well then, who says it has to be at a hotel? Why not the fair grounds or another non-hotel facility? Lets look at the economics. Our agreement with the Hilton says that if enough hams book rooms at the hotel, the hotel will provide all of their facilities at no cost. This is not a trivial item as the cost of renting a convention hall involves big bucks. And there is the matter of feeding a mob of hungry hams at the fairgrounds, not to mention the near impossibility of having the Saturday night banquet.

To make such a change would likely cause us to greatly raise our entrance charge and adversely impact the number of people who would attend. One reason we have such good support from our exhibitors is because we typically bring 2500 to 3000 people to the ex-

hibit hall. Our exhibitors are dependent upon a good turn out. One reason we were able to become the sponsor of PACIFICON is because the previous club who had it had such a small turn out that exhibitors were driven away. We breathed new life into PACIFICON and have enjoyed the success of our labors.

Regardless of wishes for a larger, different environment for PACIFICON, it does not seem to be in the cards. Should a suitable, nearby facility become available, we will certainly look at it.

What is APRS?

By Barry Winkler, KC6WYA

APRS: what is it and what does it do? APRS is an automatic packet reporting system. It's a packet program that is shareware and works with your TNC and computer. There is no other equipment needed to run this program. The program can be gotten from a BBS or the Internet at tapr.org and other home pages like MDARC.ORG.

The APRS system is very easy to set up and when you are done you have a system with maps of your area and you can see other stations on these maps. Also, you can watch mobiles and when the bands are open the HF gates post others from around the US. The mobiles use a GPS unit that posts them as they move. This can be fun to watch a friend who is on vacation or just working. You can also work the sats like Mir and others. This packet system never connects to the other stations. It uses UI frames only, not like packet where you have to connect to the station you want to keyboard to keyboard to. APRS is a tool that can be used for public service and major disasters where there is a lot of traffic and you don't have a lot of time to connect to each station, APRS lets you send one line messages to each other, or you can send one line bulletins to all stations.

APRS lets you zoom in and out on the maps. At 32 miles on a map, you may have 10 stations and you can not make out the calls of them, but you can zoom in to see the station's call. The zoom is from .325 miles to the whole world. We have a lot of maps for APRS. There is more than 130 maps for California. I would not want to guess how many maps there are for the US.

APRS is a fast-growing group and MDARC and RRRG have done a lot to help APRS get where it is today. MDARC and RRRG have a voice net on Tuesday at 19:30 on 147.060 and keyboard to keyboard on 145.010. That's all for now and watch the next *Carrier* for more on APRS and Rocky Ridge, digi, and KA node.

Hekaton Classic Bicycle Ride Supported With Amateur Radio

By Arnold Harding, KQ6DI

The weather cooperated for a beautiful and not too hot day for the 25th annual Hekaton Classic Bicycle Ride sponsored by the Valley Spokesmen Bicycle club on Sunday, September 1, 1996. The ride was supported by 16 amateur radio operators as a combined effort of both MDARC and LARK (Livermore Amateur Radio Klub). The ride had 1031 riders who could chose to ride any one of five different courses ranging from 25 miles to 100 miles. The rides which began in Dublin, reached Sunol to the South, Livermore to the East and almost to Martinez to the North.

Many thanks to all of those who helped. From MDARC, Mac, KE6ZZG, Greg, WB6MBD, Dick, AA6DL, Steve, KM6AV, Stan, N6ZA, Greg, WA5OQZ. From LARK, Dick, KE6PXW, Eliot, WA6PYH, Clancy, N6FQQ, Jay, KD6KYI, Cliff, KK6SJ, Stephanie, KF6BAN, Jim, KA6DXY, John, WB6ETY, Bob, KE6DSQ, Craig, KB7TKE.

The only incident was one rider on the 100 mile route who wouldn't give up. He missed a turn late in the day and did not show up at the last rest stop when expected. A search was begun by three amateurs and he was quickly found closer to the finish doing fine. He finally completed the ride at almost 7 P.M. and promises to start earlier next year.

Hekaton is Greek for 100. Thought you'd like to know.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerry,

After reviewing my copy of the *Carrier* for September 1996, I took special notice of the Unproposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio club" article as prepared by Richard J Shappee (WA5HQJ) in May 96, in that as I understand it, certain changes would be in direct conflict with not only the clubs own Bylaws, but with Corporate Law. I am no expert at this but if you follow along the changes I have listed below, judge for yourself.

The first of the proposed changes is Article 1, Section 1, specifically the change "A non-profit California Corporation."

The second is Article V titled finance, Section 1, specifically 1.2 "Club expenses may be defrayed by dues, auctions, or benefit, but not by assessment."

The third, Article VIII Titled PUBLICATION, specifically 1.1 "There shall be an official publication maintained by the Mt Diablo Amateur Radio Club in the form of a newsletter to be published monthly and called the *Carrier*. The editor and staff to be appointed by the board."

And; 1.3 of the same article Specifically, "The financing of the *Carrier* Shall be from the club's treasury."

Keeping in mind the above listed wording, I understand it this way, If the *Carrier* is an official publication of The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club a non-profit California Corporation, and therefore a Corporate asset, which may defray expenses by dues, donations, auctions or benefits, and whose expenses are financed by the club's treasury, then according to the Bylaws of the Club, and California Subchapter S or non-profit Corporation law, paid advertising in the *Carrier* would violate this, I refer to The Base Station and Ham Radio Outlet ads on pages 4 and 5. (if these are indeed paid ads).

You might run this one by legal and see what they say, like I say I am no expert at this but it would seem logical that you can't do both. Something to consider as an alternate would be to collect an annual "donation" by the Club, from these advertisers directly into the club treasury amount to be earmarked for operation of the *Carrier*, along with the *Carrier* budget as set by M.D.A.R.C.

Anyway, Check it out I may be wrong, or you may find an article in it in addition to hours of re-writing the bylaws after they have been approved. Am interested to see what you find out and if you have an article.

Tom Burke, KE6KEL
5046 Bonwell Drive
Concord, CA. 94521
(510) 687-3941

As far as I'm aware, the HRO and The Base Station ads that appear every month in the Carrier are not "paid" ads. HRO and The Base Station contribute door prizes to the club in return for the ads. - Jerry

Editor, The Carrier
Re: Reply to the Letter of Rodney Raines, KE6QYK

Mr. Raines apparently has as much difficulty understanding the "democratic process" as he had understanding the duties of treasurer. The Nominating Committee of the club is charged with finding people willing and capable of serving in the elected offices. They are charged with finding at least one person to fill a vacancy and if more people are found the club is better off for it, because the membership then can make an informed choice.

This was the case when Greg Estep stepped up and indicated a willingness to oppose Mr. Raines for Treasurer. The electorate spoke and elected Estep. On the face of it, Estep presented a better choice than Mr. Raines who, as the incumbent, couldn't, or wouldn't, produce the club's checking account balance for three months. (He is not being accused of dishonesty, just incompetence.)

It was in the club's interest that two candidates were made available for the Secretary's position. You may recall that candidate Mark Niles, KD6DMD, a young and viable candidate, died before the election. Club members elected his opposition, Bruce Crosky, AH0U.

With respect to election manipulation, Mr. Raines might like to talk to those who

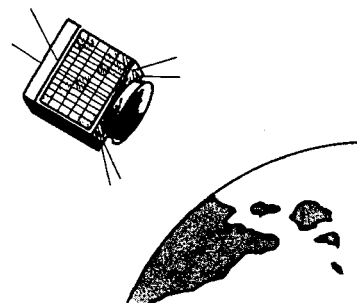
were on the Nominating Committee for the 1995 election, and counted the ballots. If the past election could have been manipulated in any way, then surely a third class miracle would have taken place. (Unfortunately the club has an unwritten policy of not divulging the count to avoid embarrassment to the losers.)

I have no idea where he got his election costs, but if they are accurate, I'd say \$208 is pretty cheap for an election involving a club of 675 or so members. If the organization is controlled by fewer than 10 percent of the membership, then it is about on par with similar elections. If you really want the club to be operated by the membership, then vote — by absentee ballot, by mail, or in person. It's that simple. But don't demand that all members be present to vote. After all, the U. S. Government doesn't do it that way, and neither does the state or county.

Nancy L. Girard
Paul W. Girard, KC6TZU
Concord CA 94519-1947

Roger Bohl, a new ham (KF6CZD), is sailing south of the US border, and is seeking a the help of a fellow ham to arrange occasional phone patches and/or E-mail relays to his friends in the US. Roger, who holds a General Class license, retired from the former Bell System and subsequently from his financial services/tax business in Alamo. He maintains a condo in Danville, where he can be found when he's not cruising the seven seas.

If you are interested and willing to help Roger, he asks that you call his voice mail (510-339-2564) or E-mail him at 104713.1202@Compuserve.com."



Membership Directory Update

By Dick Schulze, AA6DL

MDARC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

FARAJI, Farideh, KF6GEO, Technician. Charles Arthur AC6WU (510)-706-2625(h)
2504 Dewlap Court, Antioch, CA 94509

GOTTFRIED, M.D., Eugene L. (Gene), KF6FVG, Technician. Phyllis (510)-254-6756(h)
357 El Toyonal, Orinda, CA 94563 (415)-206-3500(w) (510)-254-4973(fx)

Please note there have been changes or corrections, shown in bold, for the following:

BICKEL, Robert C., KO6PL, Extra. (510)-933-4087(h) **rbickel@ccnet.com(email)**
1316 Deneb Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

BOYD, Jerry, KG6LF, **Extra**. Jay KN6BP
P.O. Box 252, Igo, CA 96047

MC KENZIE, Shirley F., KE6SQV, **General**. Paul Chelew (510)-932-8648(h)
3157 Diablo View Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549 (510)-204-1769(w)

PAWELCHAK, Ronald M. (Ron), **KQ6IT**, Advanced. Sharon (510)-674-2267(h)
180 High St., Pacheco, CA 94553 (510)-674-2267(w)

SCOTT, Walter A. (Walt), **KF6FVX, Technician**. Anna (510)-534-2859(h)
P. O. Box 8662, Emeryville, CA 94608-9991

ARRL Pacific Division Update October, 1996

By Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL

ARRL Files for Partial Reconsideration of FCC RF Exposure Order

On Aug. 1, 1996, the FCC issued a Report and Order (R&O) changing dramatically the rules under which all transmitters licensed under the FCC will be operated from an RF Safety point of view. The rule goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1997. The ARRL believes that the FCC's decision is flawed in some respects and has filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration. While this Petition is being considered, however, the effective date of the rule remains as Jan. 1, 1997. The FCC, according to the R&O, will be issuing guidelines before the first of the year. The ARRL lab and others are also preparing guideline material. See Oct. 1996 QST, page 9, for the K1ZZ editorial, and pages 78 et seq. for more details. The text of the FCC R&O (ET Docket 93-62) can be found on the FCC web site under URL — <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/>. Also, visit the ARRL WWW site for all the information currently known.

KH7 Prefix Licenses Now Being Issued in Hawaii

Technician class licenses starting in the KH7Ax license block have been issued in Hawaii starting Aug. 1, 1996.

U. S. Senate Bill Proposes That CB RFI Be Regulated by Local Authorities

Wisconsin Senator Feingold has introduced S 2025 which would give state, county and local governments the ability to prohibit the use of unauthorized CB transmitters or amplifiers and to issue fines and other sanctions against operators using such equipment. Obviously, this bill, if passed, has the potential to create problems for amateur radio operators. ARRL has been working with Senator Feingold's staff and others on Capitol

Hill to modify the proposed bill. See DC Currents, Oct. 1996 QST, p. 15.

H.R. 3207 Introduced; To Protect OO and VE Volunteers

In March 1996, Congressman Bill Baker (R-CA 10th - East Bay Section) introduced H.R. 3207, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate utilization of volunteer resources on behalf of the amateur radio service. Newest Pacific Division Congresspersons who have signed as co-sponsors: Wally Herger (R-CA 2nd - SV Sec.); Zoe Lofgren (D-CA 16th - SCV Sec.); Lynn Woolsey (D-CA 6th - SF Sec.); Neil Abercrombie (D-HI 1st - Pacific Section). Contact your Congressional Representatives to urge them to become co-sponsors of the bill. On Sept. 12, 1996, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA 14th) and Rep. Michael Oxley (R-OH-4th), both co-sponsors, added the wording of H.R. 3207 to H.R. 3957, the FCC Modernization Act of 1996, while this bill was being considered by the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance of which they are both members. H.R. 3207 remains intact by itself, but is also now an amendment to the FCC bill. This is a good news and bad news situation. The good news is that we have two places where this language appears; the bad news is that some of the other terms of the FCC bill do not appear to be beneficial to the Amateur Radio Service.

New Volunteer Consulting Engineer Appointed in the Pacific Division

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dick Adler, K3CXZ, of Monterey CA as a new Volunteer Con-

NETS

RRRG Nets

APRS Net Tuesdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA

Phone Net Thursdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y

ATV Net Thursdays 2000 Hours
 Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT
 Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV

Youth Net Thursdays 1900 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net

First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ

Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ
 (510) 228-8223

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County 145.680 Simplex
 Jim Brunk*, N6BHX
 (510) 372-8248

East County 146.535 Simplex
 Jim Tittle*, KC6SOE
 (510) 432-3220

South County 146.355/+ (100 pl)
 Greg Nelson*, WB6MBD
 (510) 933-5381

West County 145.110/-
 Rich Parker*, KD6JCT
 (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours

Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets

Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR
 (510) 229-5705

* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

sulting Engineer! Welcome to the team, Dick!

Some Good News on the Amateur Radio Rules Enforcement Front

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the amount of \$6,000 against Timothy Harold Hoffman, Phoenix, AZ, for violations of various amateur radio rules. This NAL is the result of a huge amount of work by the Phoenix area Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC to document the jamming problems, the Phoenix FCC office and action by ARRL in Washington DC. There was also a big letter writing campaign to congressional folks from AZ and the White House. This is only the bare outline of the story — more in the ARRL Letter dated Sept. 13, 1996.

Bylaws Revisions Move Forward

By Richard Schappe, WA5HQJ

Member-recommended revisions to the MDARC bylaws were discussed at length at the September Board of Directors meeting. After line-by-line review and analysis of proposed changes and changes recommended by those at the meeting, President Larry, KB2GV, asked club member Richard, WA5HQJ, to prepare a new draft for board action. Richard advised that he would do so and make the finished draft available on the club's BBS in Word Perfect format. He also thanked the bylaws committee for their very significant work in bringing the bylaws up to date.

Ramblings From The Editor

A fellow ham recently asked me "will the net obsolete Ham radio?" I replied, "probably not". Hardly an unequivocal answer, to be sure, but who can predict the future?

There are some functions the Internet can never replace, such as emergency communications. Amateur radio has repeatedly proven its worth in this area, and will continue to do so for years to come. In other ways, the Internet has already gone far beyond the amateur radio equivalent. Take email, for instance. Internet mail is orders of magnitude faster and more reliable than the pathetically slow packet radio BBS system.

While new technologies are exploding onto the Internet scene almost daily, most amateurs are still tied to 1200 baud packet systems—if they're on packet at all. I recently tried an experiment. I sent twenty identical messages to a friend in Finland; ten via the packet radio system, and ten via Internet email. I received replies to all ten messages sent over the Internet within *five minutes*. I received replies to four of my packet messages strung out over a five day period. Six of the packet messages vanished without a trace. Which would you rely on to get a message through in a crisis?

Some of you might say that when push comes to shove, the Internet will collapse. Not likely. The Internet is highly redundant and can quickly route traffic around failed nodes. In fact, the Internet was designed to withstand a nuclear attack.

No, the Internet won't replace amateur radio, but it can already offer highly reliable communications that amateur radio can't even begin to match.

October 11	8:00 pm	MDARC Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette Emil Villa's, Concord
October 14	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Concord Hilton
October 18-20		Pacificon '96	Fairfield Senior Center 1200 Civic Drive, Fairfield Last Saturday of each Month
October 26	9:00 am-Noon	Fairfield Ham Exams Dick, AB6EY, (916) 791-0268	Las Positas College, Livermore 1st Sunday every month
October 26		November Carrier Deadline	Bakers Square on Willow Pass Road 1st Wednesday every month
November 3	7:00 am-Noon	Livermore Swapmeet	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months
November 6	7:30 pm	RACES Monthly Meeting	
December 1	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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